

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An arteriostenosis diagnosing apparatus, comprising:

an inferior limb blood pressure measuring device which measures an inferior limb blood pressure at a first measuring point on an inferior limb of a living subject;

a superior limb blood pressure measuring device which measures a superior limb blood pressure at a second measuring point on a superior limb of the subject;

an inferior and superior limb blood pressure index determining means for determining an inferior and superior limb blood pressure index of the subject, based on the inferior limb blood pressure measured by the inferior limb blood pressure measuring device and the superior limb blood pressure measured by the superior limb blood pressure measuring device;

a first pulse wave velocity related information obtaining means for obtaining first pulse wave velocity related information that is related to a first velocity at which a first pulse wave propagates through a first interval whose one end is defined by the first measuring point and which includes an upstream portion of the inferior limb that is located upstream of the first measuring point as seen in a direction of flow of arterial blood in the inferior limb;

a second pulse wave velocity related information obtaining means for obtaining second pulse wave velocity related information that is related to a second velocity at which a second pulse wave propagates through a second interval which does not include any portions of the inferior limb; and

an arteriostenosis judging means for judging, when the inferior and superior limb blood pressure index does not fall in a prescribed abnormal index range, when the first pulse wave velocity related information falls in a prescribed normal information range, and when the second pulse wave velocity related information falls in a prescribed abnormal information range, that there is a possibility that the inferior limb has arteriostenosis.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the

second pulse wave velocity related information obtaining means obtains the second pulse wave velocity related information that is related to the second velocity at which the second pulse wave propagates through the second interval that is located in an upper half of a body of the subject.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the inferior limb blood pressure measuring device comprises an inferior limb cuff which is adapted to be worn on the first measuring point of the inferior limb of the subject, and the superior limb blood pressure measuring device comprises a superior limb cuff which is adapted to be worn on the second measuring point of the superior limb of the subject, wherein the inferior and superior limb blood pressure index determining means determines the inferior and superior limb blood pressure index of the subject, by dividing one of the inferior limb blood pressure and the superior limb blood pressure by the other of the inferior limb blood pressure and the superior limb blood pressure, wherein the first pulse wave velocity related information obtaining means comprises a first pulse wave velocity determining means for determining the first pulse wave velocity at which the first pulse wave propagates through the first interval whose length is equal to a difference between a first distance between a heart of the subject and the first measuring point and a second distance between the heart of the subject and the second measuring point, and the second pulse wave velocity related information obtaining means comprises a second pulse wave velocity determining means for determining the second pulse wave velocity at which the second pulse wave propagates through the second interval whose length is equal to the second distance between the heart of the subject and the second measuring point, and wherein the arteriostenosis judging means judges, when the inferior and superior limb blood pressure index falls in a prescribed normal index range or a prescribed advisory index range other than the abnormal index range, when the first pulse wave velocity falls in a prescribed normal first velocity range, and when the second pulse wave velocity falls in a prescribed abnormal second velocity range, that there is the possibility that the inferior limb has the arteriostenosis.

4. The apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising:

a display device which displays a screen image; and

a display control means for controlling the display device to display, as the screen image, a two-dimensional graph that is defined by a first axis indicating inferior and superior limb blood pressure index, and a second axis indicating first pulse wave velocity, and additionally display a determined-value symbol representing the inferior and superior limb blood pressure index determined by the inferior and superior limb blood pressure index determining means and the first pulse wave velocity determined by the first pulse wave velocity determining means.

5. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the second pulse wave velocity determining means comprises:

a heart sound microphone which is adapted to be worn on the heart of the subject and detects a heart sound produced by the heart;

the superior limb cuff which detects the second pulse wave at the second measuring point;

means for determining, as a propagation time, a time difference between respective prescribed periodic points of the heart sound detected by the heart sound microphone and the second pulse wave detected by the superior limb cuff; and

means for determining the second pulse wave velocity by dividing the length of the second interval by the determined propagation time.

6. An arteriostenosis diagnosing apparatus, comprising:

an inferior limb blood pressure measuring device which measures an inferior limb blood pressure at a first measuring point on an inferior limb of a living subject;

a superior limb blood pressure measuring device which measures a superior limb blood pressure at a second measuring point on a superior limb of the subject;

an inferior and superior limb blood pressure index determining device which determines an inferior and superior limb blood pressure index of the subject, based on the inferior limb blood pressure measured by the inferior limb blood pressure measuring device and the superior limb blood pressure measured by the superior limb blood pressure

measuring device;

a first pulse wave velocity related information obtaining device which obtains first pulse wave velocity related information that is related to a first velocity at which a first pulse wave propagates through a first interval whose one end is defined by the first measuring point and which includes an upstream portion of the inferior limb that is located upstream of the first measuring point as seen in a direction of flow of arterial blood in the inferior limb;

a second pulse wave velocity related information obtaining device which obtains second pulse wave velocity related information that is related to a second velocity at which a second pulse wave propagates through a second interval which does not include any portions of the inferior limb; and

an arteriostenosis judging device which judges, when the inferior and superior limb blood pressure index does not fall in a prescribed abnormal index range, when the first pulse wave velocity related information falls in a prescribed normal information range, and when the second pulse wave velocity related information falls in a prescribed abnormal information range, that there is a possibility that the inferior limb has arteriostenosis.